

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C.,
SEPTEMBER 22 AND 23, 1921.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1922 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, northwest, Washington, D. C., Thursday, September 22 and Friday, September 23, 1921.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman;
Mr. Pope;
Mr. Greenleaf;
Mr. Fraser;
Mr. Mowbray;

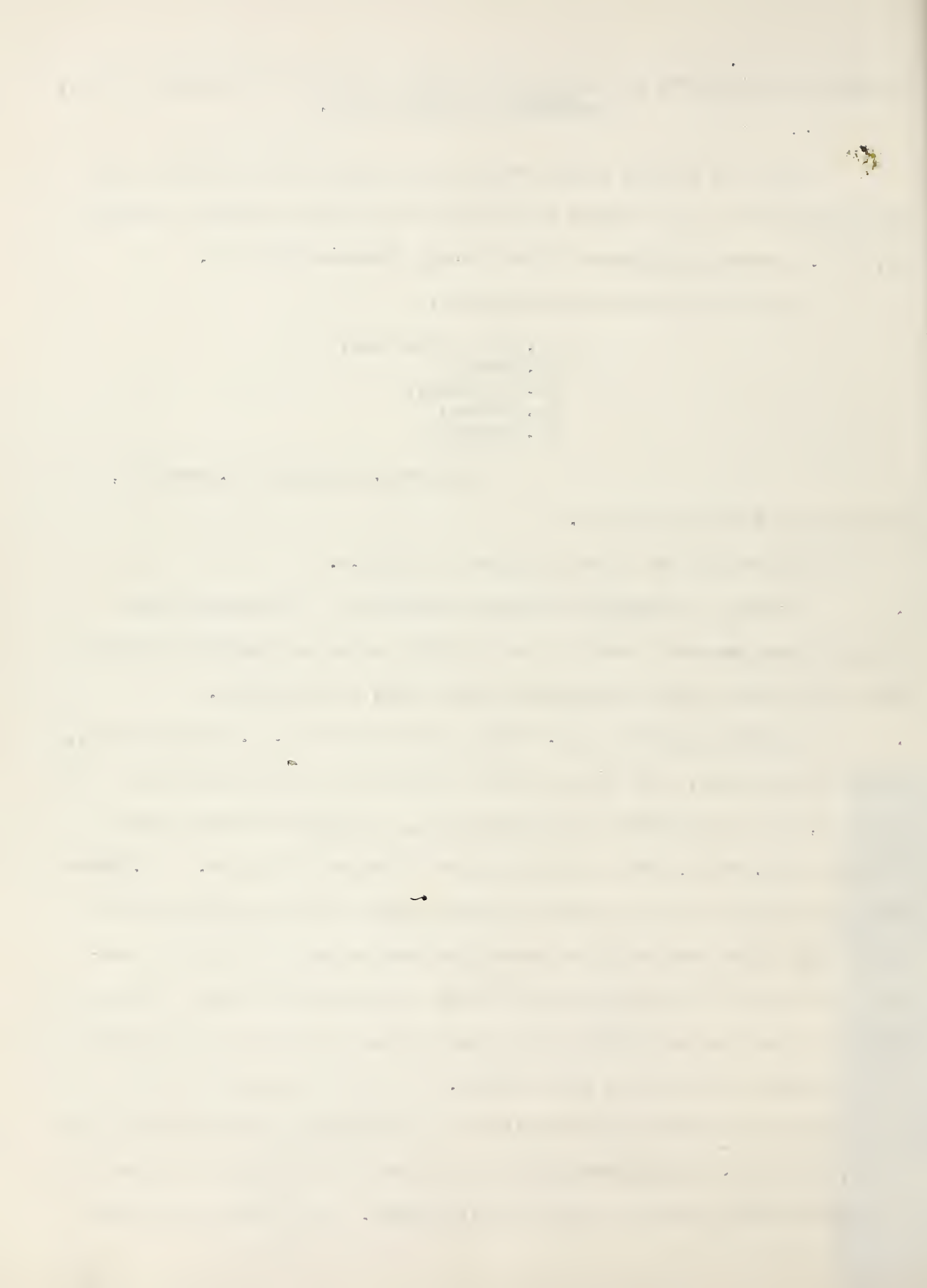
also Lieut. Colonel C. O. Sherrill,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS: The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on June 9, 1921, and of the Committee meetings held on July 26th, August 3d and August 23d, 1921, were approved.

2. ARLINGTON MANSION: Mr. Moore reported that Mrs. R. Woodland Gates, of 2735 Ontario Road, this city, offered to purchase for the Mansion at Arlington, with the approval of the Commission, a mahogany sideboard which belonged to Dr. Brown, one of the physicians of George Washington. Mr. Moore stated that this is one of a number of contributions which have been offered in the plan of the Commission to restore the Mansion, and now that the landscape plan of the Commission for the grounds surrounding the Mansion has been adopted it would be desirable to equip the interior so that the Mansion would be of historical interest, as Mount Vernon. It is thought probable that portraits can be secured from the Smithsonian Institution, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and a few from the Commission of Fine Arts, to illustrate the plan of Washington, which could be loaned for this purpose. The rooms on the north

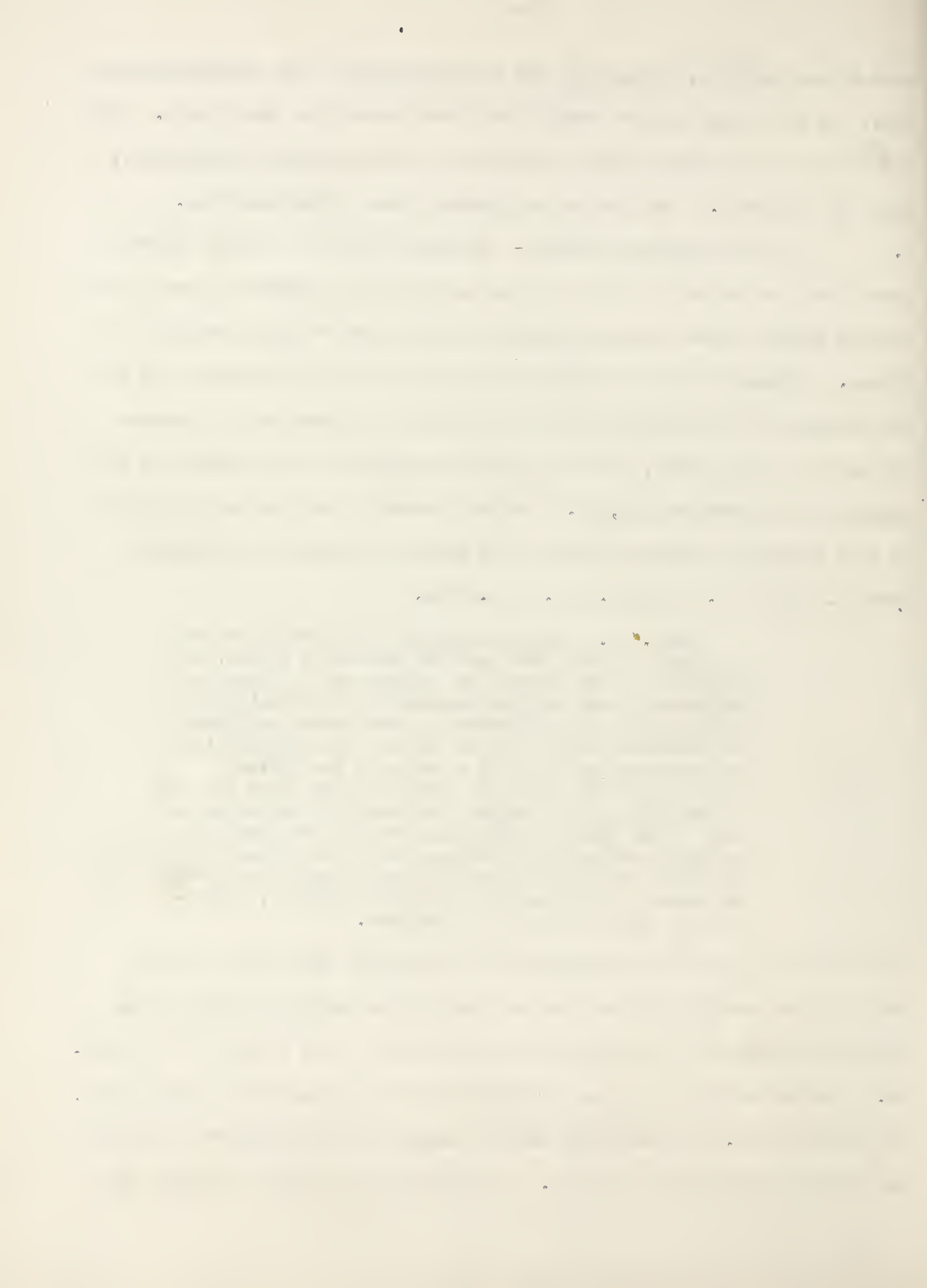


side of the building, occupied by the Superintendent of the Arlington Cemetery, are being kept as they were at the time General Lee lived there. The office now in the Mansion should be removed to the Arlington Amphitheater, also the flag pole. The Commission approved these recommendations.

3. ✓ ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE - "RIVERSIDE DRIVE": Colonel Sherrill stated that in connection with the plan to restore the Mansion he desired to ask the advice of the Commission regarding plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge. Colonel Sherrill stated that the President has authorized him to ask Congress for an appropriation from the \$25,000 authorized by Congress for plans for the bridge, and that with the approval of the Director of the Budget he had asked for \$10,000. Colonel Sherrill read the Act pertaining to this matter as follows: (Extract from Public Buildings Act, approved March 4, 1913, Vol. 37 Stats., pt. 1, p. 885).

"Sec. 23. That a commission is hereby created, to consist of the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the chairman of the Committees on Public Buildings and Grounds of the Senate and House of Representatives, for the purpose of investigating and reporting to Congress a suitable design for a Memorial Bridge across the Potomac River, from the city of Washington, to a point at or near the Arlington estate in the State of Virginia; and the said commission is hereby authorized to expend the sum of \$25,000 in procuring such designs and for making such surveys and estimates of cost as they may deem advisable, and report as early as may be to Congress."

Colonel Sherrill asked the Commission to what extent the plans of former years for the bridge could be used and whether the architects who won the competition were to be considered the architects for the bridge at this time. Mr. Moore stated that the plans referred to for the bridge were made in 1899, and while Messrs. Burr and Casey won the competition the problem at that time was different from what it is now. At that time the Lincoln Memorial had



not been built and the plan, as those designs show, was for a monumental bridge. At that time also it was thought very necessary to have a draw-bridge since water traffic to Georgetown was excessive, but since then, because of improved railroad facilities, this has slackened, and it is now the intention to use the Anacostia for commercial purposes. A bridge could, therefore, be designed without the draw and a bridge of that kind would be very preferable. Mr. Pope recommended that new plans be drawn for the bridge properly related to the Lincoln Memorial and that instead of asking for simply \$10,000 a request be made at once for \$25,000 so that the plans may cover the entire project. As to a plan of procedure Mr. Moore stated that it could be similar to that for the Lincoln Memorial. In the case of the Lincoln Memorial the Lincoln Memorial Commission asked the Commission of Fine Arts as to the best way of getting an architect and the Commission reported that the best way was by direct selection. Then the Lincoln Memorial Commission asked this Commission to recommend an architect, which this Commission did. In this connection it would be necessary to have an architect who would design a bridge which would be in harmony with the Lincoln Memorial; simply a revision of the former plans would not meet the situation.

Mr. Greenleaf recommended that in designing the new plans for the bridge the plan for the "Riverside Drive" west of the Lincoln Memorial be included, and the design should show the proposed sea wall and that part of the parkway as it joins the "Riverside Drive". Mr. Greenleaf said the attention of the designer of the bridge should also be called to the fact that there will be a driveway known as the Mount Vernon Boulevard on the Virginia side near Arlington. There will thus be a parkway on both sides of the river. All those elements should be shown in the design for the bridge and be considered as a whole.

The Commission endorsed these suggestions and recommended that at the proper time plans for the bridge be drawn accordingly.

4.✓ GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL BUILDING: Colonel Sherrill reported that Mrs. Dimock, President of the George Washington Memorial Association, is anxious to begin construction work on the George Washington Memorial Building in November, and that in reviewing the plan for the building it has been observed that the building would not be parallel with Sixth and Seventh Streets. Mr. Moore stated that this is a question which has come up with each building erected on the Mall, as the National Museum, and the Agricultural Department building, and the question of first importance has been that the alignment of the building be correct with reference to the Mall axis. Mr. Pope advised that as each building faces the Mall, from which the main view of the building will be obtained, the facade of the buildings on the Mall side should be parallel with the Mall axis. Colonel Tracy, one of the architects, happened to be here and was called before the Commission. Colonel Tracy stated that in designing the building they were instructed to bring the building in proper relation to the Mall axis, and that he knew, therefore, that the building may not be in line with the side streets. Colonel Tracy said in the case of the proposed Armory, for which they made a design, they related the building properly to the Mall axis and then made additions to the rear to bring the building in line with the street in the rear. However, Colonel Tracy said to attempt such a thing now with the plan for the George Washington Memorial Building would be very inadvisable as it would affect measurements made for material and cost of construction. Colonel Tracy said they also designed the building in relation to the tree planting proposed on the Mall.

The Commission recommended that no change be made in the existing plans for the building but that the building be erected at an equal distance

between Sixth and Seventh Streets in correct relation to the Mall axis. As there are to be twelve columns on the facade of the building and trees about the building it was not thought that by placing the building at equal distance between Sixth and Seventh Streets it would be necessary to make any change in the tree planting plan for the Mall. Mr. Moore recommended that in the removal of the temporary buildings in the vicinity of the George Washington Memorial site the jog on B Street be corrected at once. Colonel Sherrill said he considered this a timely suggestion and would see to it that it was done.

The Commission then considered the plan of the George Washington Memorial Association to begin work on the building and reaffirmed their decision as set forth in the letter to Hon. J. W. Langley, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, (Exhibit A), that no work be begun on the building until sufficient funds are in sight to complete the building. It was reported that the Association now has only about \$500,000 at hand, whereas the building was to cost at least two million dollars and according to later reports from three to ten million dollars.

Colonel Tracy said that it had been suggested that when the cornerstone shall be laid it be placed in the northeast corner of the building. The Commission did not object to this.

The Commission recommended that a letter be written by the Secretary of War to the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds regarding the inadvisability of beginning construction work on the building at this time.

5. ✓ FLAG POLE EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL: Miss Katherine Harris, daughter of the Municipal Architect of the District of Columbia, appeared before the Commission with two revised designs for the pedestal of the flag pole for the new Eastern High School. The Commission thought the designs well drawn and

advised that either of them would be satisfactory.

6. VERDUN MEDAL: Mr. Fraser submitted a photograph of the finished model (obverse and reverse) of the Verdun Medal and stated he was entirely satisfied with Mr. Flanagan's completed model. The Commission approved the model and recommended that the sculptor proceed to have the medal struck at the Mint.

7. ALABAMA CENTENNIAL COIN: Mr. Fraser submitted completed models for the Alabama Centennial Coin made by Mrs. Fraser. The Commission approved the models and recommended that they be forwarded to the Treasury Department for the approval of the Director of the Mint and the Secretary of the Treasury. The coin will be minted in accordance with the Act approved May 10, 1920. The Commission thought the models very fine and beautiful.

8. STAR OF DAVID: Mr. Fraser submitted a revised model of the Star of David proposed for the headstone of the World War graves. The sculptor had incised the Star in accordance with instructions, but the Commission thought the model lacked finish, that the points on the Star should come closer to the edge as on the Star of David for the British headstones, and recommended that Mr. Fraser confer with Mr. Friedlander, the sculptor, with a view to having a new model made with raised crossed lines.

9. QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S FLAG: Mr. Fraser submitted a revised design for the proposed flag of the Quartermaster General and stated that Mr. Charles L. Bull, of Oradell, New Jersey, a specialist in designing animals, had redrawn the eagle. The Commission recognized the improvement in the original design submitted by the office of the Quartermaster General. The design was approved.

10. ✓ DARLINGTON MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN: Mr. Fraser reported that Mr. C. P. Jennewein, sculptor, has been at work on the model for the Darlington Memorial Fountain to be placed in Judiciary Square, and that he is in a serious predica-

ment since he has spent about \$2,000 in making the full-sized model, whereas he has received to date only \$250.00 for the work. Mr. Fraser submitted photographs of the model and reported that it was very well executed, whereupon the model was approved. The Commission recommended that Mr. Fraser notify Mr. Jennewein to advise the Commission by letter as to the difficulties he has experienced in making the model.

11. SOLDIERS MEMORIAL CROSS: Mr. Moore reported that at a meeting in New York City August 23, 1921 Mr. Ayres submitted a design for the proposed Memorial Cross for Arlington which the Committee adopted, and that he had since conferred with members of the Committee of the American Women's Legion who had approved the design. The design differs from those heretofore submitted by Captain Granger in that it calls for a cross of a monumental type with a very simple pedestal. The Commission approved the design.

12. ✓ WASHINGTON WATER FRONT: Colonel Sherrill reported that he had received a long letter from Mr. J. Maury Dove, Jr., protesting against the action of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia in refusing to renew the permit for the use of the wharves on Water Street for material stored there by the Company, and such action would deprive them and other business establishments of privileges they have had there for years, also that this would threaten to increase the price of material brought to the wharves, especially of wood.

The Commission considered the matter very carefully and decided that while some business men may be inconvenienced to some extent in this matter the wharves are now in an unsightly condition, and the whole area along Water Street should be properly developed so as to become a part of the parkway scheme for the District of Columbia, connecting East Potomac Park with the Anacostia Water Park. The Commission stated that in cleaning up the wharves it was not the intention to deprive them altogether of commercial privileges but that they did

object to the unsightly condition prevailing there at the present time and to business houses using parts of the area for storing material. The Commission requested Colonel Sherrill to reply to Mr. Dove by letter setting forth the views of the Commission in this matter. (Exhibit B).

13. ✓ SKINNER MEDAL: The Commission received a letter from Major General P. C. Harris, the Adjutant General, transmitting correspondence and a design from the Medical Field Service School at Carlisle, Pennsylvania, for a prize medal to be known as the "Skinner Medal". The Commission after inspecting the design disapproved it, as being below the standards set by the United States Mint. The Commission recommended that a medallist be employed to design a suitable medal. (Exhibit C).

14. PEARY MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore reported that he had received a letter from Mrs. Marie Stafford, daughter of Mrs. Peary, saying that they would very much desire to have the inscriptions for the memorial include one for Mrs. Peary. The Commission endorsed the suggestion and recommended sending Mrs. Peary a revised set of inscriptions for her approval. (Exhibit D).

15. LINCOLN MEMORIAL LIGHTING: Colonel Sherrill submitted the following letter from the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds in regard to the lighting for the Lincoln Memorial:

"It is requested that the Fine Arts Commission during the period of their next meeting in Washington, examine the temporary illumination of the Lincoln Memorial and advise this office as to any modifications of this illumination that the Commission may consider advisable."

The Commission thought this matter should be given attention soon, but in the absence of Mr. Henry Bacon, the architect, who had just returned from Europe and was prevented from being present, action in the matter was deferred until the next meeting.

16. JEANNE D'ARC MEMORIAL: Mr. Moore reported that under date of September 14, 1921 he had received the following letter from Mr. Wm. Mitchell Kendall, regarding the Jeanne D'Arc Memorial:

"Doubtless you have heard from Madame Polifeme, who called yesterday, and with whom I had a long interview. Her idea is to have a ceremony of the breaking of the ground on November 11th, and then again a more important one on January 6th, when she hopes the statue will be in place. I am writing to ask you whether the level of the site proposed is already established.

"Madame Polifeme showed me some inscriptions for the Washington Pedestal, and will consult the Commission of Fine Arts and Ambassador Jusserand on the subject. I am obtaining estimates upon the pedestal in various granites, omitting for the present the question of the inscriptions.

"In order to finish the pedestal by January 6th, the question of the design of the pedestal should be settled by the Commission at the earliest possible moment, if possible before the 22nd. This is especially necessary if the Commission approves of the idea of using the polished Ascutney Green Granite, of which I have a sample in the office. I am also getting estimates on Milford Granite and Green Rockport Granite, brought to an eight out finish."

Mr. Fraser said he did not think that polished granite would look very well and that the honed granite would be better. The Commission recommended as to the color of the granite for the pedestal a type which will best conform to the bronze of the statue, and that Mr. Fraser confer with Mr. Kendall for an agreement with regard to the pedestal and the granite to be used.

17. ✓ HOWARD UNIVERSITY, DESIGN FOR HOME ECONOMICS AND DINING HALL BUILDING:

Dr. Emmett J. Scott, of Howard University, Mr. William A. Haxel and Albert I. Cassel, architects, appeared before the Commission with plans for its new building for the University. Dr. Scott explained that the plans had been drawn and approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior on July 11, 1921, and that since then contracts had been let for the construction of the building; however, in view of the Executive Order of the President of July 28, 1921 the Secretary

of the Interior had requested that the designs for the building be submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts for inspection and approval. The plans were reviewed and approved. (Exhibit E).

18. ✓ MEMORIAL TO UNKNOWN AMERICAN: Mr. Moore reported that he had been called into conference by the War Department regarding plans for the burial of the unknown American in Arlington on November 11th, and that in accordance with his recommendations the architect of the building, Mr. Thomas Hastings, had been called to Washington in regard to the matter. Mr. Hastings was in the city on September 14th when he conferred with officials of the War Department and ~~that~~ they and Mr. Moore went to the Amphitheater to agree upon a site for the memorial. The suggestion of the War Department that the memorial be placed in the apse was declared by the architect to be inadvisable, as the foundations at this place are not strong enough for a heavy memorial. Mr. Hastings recommended placing the memorial on the east side of the Amphitheater opposite the roadway and set in the steps, at a point on the axis of the entrance. Mr. Hastings said he would make the foundation permanent but that he would desire time to consider the ornamental part of the monument. The Commission approved the site for the memorial.

19. ✓ MEMORIAL TABLET FOR UNKNOWN DEAD IN ARLINGTON AMPHITHEATER: Under date of September 19, 1921, the Commission received the following letter from Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief, Graves Registration Service, Office of the Quartermaster General, regarding the proposed memorial tablet:

"This office has received a large number of requests from relatives of deceased officers and enlisted men to erect a monument or a headstone in cases where the body has not been interred in Arlington, either because the body was lost at sea or has not been identified. There is an existing rule prohibiting the erection in Arlington National Cemetery of monuments or headstones unless the body is interred in the cemetery.

"It appears to this office that some memorial should be provided to meet such cases. It is therefore the purpose of this office to recommend that a suitable bronze or other tablet be adopted and placed in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater in a location to be selected by the Commission of Fine Arts. It is accordingly recommended that your Commission prepare a drawing of such a tablet and submit the same to this office.

"By authority of the Quartermaster General."

The Commission after a discussion thought that it would not be in accord with present plans for burials of the dead of the World War to place some in the World War Section and, because the remains of others could not be found, to honor them with a special memorial tablet in the Amphitheater. Furthermore, attention was called to the Act approved March 4, 1921 "To provide for the erection of memorials and the entombment of bodies in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, Section 3 -

"That no inscription, tablet, bust, or other memorial shall be erected nor shall any body be entombed within the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater unless specifically authorized in each case by Act of the Congress."

It was reported that there are about 1,500 unknown dead of the World War, but that it is expected this number will be reduced in time due to further identification, and that the proposed monument to the unknown American of the World War could be considered a memorial to all the unknown dead of the war. Colonel Penrose is to be advised of the conclusion of the Commission in this matter. (Exhibit F).

20. ✓ DIVISION MEMORIALS - WORLD WAR MEMORIAL: Colonel Sherrill reported that the President had referred to the Commission for their consideration letters regarding the erection of Division Memorials in Washington. Colonel Sherrill said objection prevails among various Divisions to the First Division erecting a memorial south of the State, War and Navy Building. It is possible

many other Divisions would wish to erect a memorial in Washington, which he thought would not seem to be the best thing for the city. It would be better to have one World War Memorial at a location where all the Division Memorials could be grouped and properly related to each other.

Mr. Moore advised that the Commission had given this subject very careful consideration at a meeting held in December, 1919, when the Commission recommended a World War Memorial to commemorate the services of the Divisions and the allied welfare organizations, as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, but that if the First Division proposed to erect a memorial which would be an ornament to the city the Commission would interpose no objection. Being assured of this the Commission endorsed the sight for the First Division Memorial south of the State, War and Navy Building. The Division gathered a fund of \$150,000 for the Memorial, and they have secured Cass Gilbert as the architect, and Daniel Chester French as the sculptor, who have been informed that the design is not to be simply for a memorial to commemorate the services of the First Division but rather a memorial of the World War erected by the First Division.

Mr. Moore stated that the First Division had gathered their fund before their Division had become scattered and since then the Second and Fourth Divisions had reported their intentions to have a memorial erected. Mr. Moore said judging from previous wars he doubted if many Divisions would erect memorials in Washington, and that a suitable place could be found for all memorials which would be an ornament to the city for which an adequate fund had been raised. The Commission recommended that the National World War Memorial be erected south of the Washington Monument which will relate it to the Mall plan.

21. ✓ AMERICAN CEMETERIES IN EUROPE: Plans for two additional cemeteries in Europe, St. Mihiel and Seringes et Nesles, were submitted to the Commission

by the War Department through Major George Gibbs, Jr., landscape architect, and approved. Mr. Greenleaf reported that since his return from Europe a few days ago he had gone over the plans including the plans for construction work on the cemeteries. Major Gibbs reported that he has received orders from the War Department to sail for France on September 29, 1921, to begin construction work on the proposed cemeteries in Europe. Mr. Moore stated that indications are that the plans will be developed about as prepared by the Commission; that in addition to having the approval of the Quartermaster General they have been approved by General Pershing, Chief of Staff, with only two changes - one taking off about one-hundred acres from Belleau Wood and the other in adding about sixteen ~~acres~~ to Seringes et Nesles. Mr. Moore reported that he had brought the plans to the attention of the President and to General Dawes, Director of the Budget, who had endorsed them.

22. ✓ PORTRAIT OF ANDREW JACKSON: The Senate Committee on the Library having requested the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts in the matter of the purchase of a portrait of Andrew Jackson for the Senate Corridor in accordance with Senate Resolution 75, the Commission went to the room of the Library Committee at the Capitol to see the portrait proposed to be purchased by the Senate Library Committee if satisfactory to the Commission. At the same time the Commission saw a photograph of an oil painting by Earl now owned by a great grandson of Andrew Jackson, living at Los Angeles, California. From there the members of the Commission went to the Library of Congress to see an exhibition of Jackson portraits. Furthermore, the Commission had gone to the Corcoran Gallery of Art to see the full length picture of Andrew Jackson by Sully and had photographs of Sully portraits of Jackson, which are now in the Ehrich Galleries in New York. Mr. Mowbray, as painter

member of the Commission, examined the photographs and the paintings and advised that he did not think the portrait on exhibition in the rooms of the Library Committee would be suitable for the Senate Corridor. Mr. Mowbray on examination of the portraits in the Enrich Galleries submitted a report in the matter which was transmitted to Senator Brandegee, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library. (Exhibit G).

23. PORTRAIT OF ANDREW CARNEGIE: Under date of September 10, 1921 the Commission received the following letter from Dr. L. S. Rowe, Director General of the Pan American Union, requesting the advice of the Commission in the matter regarding the purchase of an oil painting of Mr. Andrew Carnegie:

"Some time ago Mr. Leslie T. McCleary deposited with the Pan American Union an oil painting of Mr. Andrew Carnegie. Mr. McCleary now desires to dispose of this portrait.

"You can readily appreciate the fact that if the Pan American Union were to acquire a portrait of Mr. Carnegie, it should be a work of real merit, and I am writing to inquire whether the Fine Arts Commission will do the Pan American Union the very great service to pass on the merits of this portrait.

"Permit me to thank you in advance for your attention to this matter."

The Commission called on Dr. Rowe and examined the portrait. It was reported to be one by Thorp. The Commission did not think it a good portrait of Andrew Carnegie, and disapproved purchasing it for the Pan American building.

24. ✓ NUNS OF THE BATTLEFIELD MONUMENT: The Commission inspected a model of the Monument for the Nuns of the Battlefield at the studio of Jerome Connor. Mr. Fraser thought there was an improvement in the panel of the Nuns, but that the side figures were not in good proportions. Mr. Connor reported that in accordance with instructions from the Commission he had veri-

fied the quotation he had desired to use and found that it was not one by Abraham Lincoln. The Commission requested that the next time the sculptor desires them to inspect the model he have the working model absolutely finished. (Exhibit H).

25. ✓ FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MEMORIAL: Colonel Sherrill reported that he had received the following communication under date of September 16, 1921 from Olney and Comstock, 68 Williams Street, New York City, regarding the Francis Scott Key Memorial, on which he had asked Mr. Fraser for advice:

"With respect to the Francis Scott Key Memorial, to be erected by Charles H. Niehaus at Fort McHenry Park, Baltimore, Md., we write on behalf of the Gorham Company, which company is under contract with Mr. Niehaus to supply the bronze figure for the monument, to ascertain what course your office will be pleased to entertain with respect to the inspection of this bronze casting. We are informed by the Gorham Company that the bronze has already been cast and that upon a notice of at least two weeks, it will be ready for inspection.

"Will you please inform us whether or not it is your desire or purpose to make an inspection of this bronze in the near future? It would seem desirable to have at least the preliminary inspection of the bronze at the plant of the Gorham Company so that in case of possible objection the trouble might be remedied there."

Mr. Fraser reported that he had conferred with one of the representatives of the Gorham Company and was advised that the bronze was in Providence subject to inspection. The Commission requested Mr. Fraser to proceed to Providence at his early convenience to inspect this bronze casting, but upon further inquiry the following report was received from Mr. Herbert Adams, former sculptor member of the Commission:

"We inspected and approved of the bronze casting of the heroic figure for the Francis Scott Key Monument."

26. ✓ ZONING: The Commission was informed of the fact that Colonel C. W. Kutz, Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, was terminating his period of service as such Commissioner. The Commission requested that a letter be written expressing their appreciation of his cooperation in measures in which the District Commissioners and the Commission of Fine Arts were concerned and of his services in behalf of the Zoning Law. (Exhibit I).
27. ✓ FORT LINCOLN - FORT DRIVE: On Friday, September 23, the Commission spent the greater part of the day on a tour of inspection and went first to Fort Lincoln Cemetery. Mr. Peaslee was present and stated that the Company is continuing development of the grounds. The site near the old Fort Lincoln was examined, which it is proposed to develop for park purposes by a deviation in the lay out of Eastern Avenue. The panorama from the grounds over the Maryland hills was thought magnificent. From there an attempt was made to follow the proposed lay out of the Fort Drive contemplated by Bill H. R. 5017 introduced in the House of Representatives on April 25, 1921. It appears that at the present time most of the old forts can be reached only by a roundabout way. The Commission noted that Fort Lincoln was not mentioned in the Bill and recommended that a recommendation to include Fort Lincoln in the Fort Drive be made to the Committee of Congress. From there a trip was made to Fort Bunker Hill and to Fort Totten, but as it appeared that much time would be required to pass all the old fort sites it was decided to inspect the Anacostia Reclamation project, during which a trip was made to the Shaw Lily Gardens, the St. Elizabeth Hospital grounds, and from there a trip was made to Arlington to inspect the work being done at the Amphitheater and the World War Section.

On Thursday noon the Commission had luncheon at the Library of Congress and had as their guests Hon. Merrill Moores, Mr. Appleton P. C. Griffin, Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress, and Major George Gibbs, Jr.

June 22, 1921.

Dear Mr. Langley:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 15 with which you transmitted copy of H. J. Res. 142 "Stating the true meaning and intent of the provisions relating to the erection and use of the George Washington Memorial Building in the Act * * * approved March 4, 1913, as amended", and stating that the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds desires the recommendations of this Commission with regard to this resolution.

The Commission of Fine Arts understand that Congress granted to the George Washington Memorial Association authority to construct on the north side of the Mall on the former site of the Pennsylvania Railway Station a building and to contain an auditorium capable of seating 7,000 persons, together with smaller auditoriums. It was understood that these halls of various sizes were to be under the control of the Smithsonian Institution and were to be used for convention purposes, by civic and patriotic associations as convention halls are used in other cities.

The Commission know that the George Washington Memorial Association held a competition for plans. This competition had as invited competitors architects of the highest standing. The competition was judged by a competent jury. The successful architects, as required, submitted their plans to the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Commission approved them without qualifications and with commendation.

The location, the design of the building and the plan, all seemed to the Commission calculated to satisfy a great need of the Government and of the people of the District; and to do so in a manner that would promote the proper and harmonious development of the capital.

Later the Commission have learned through the newspapers that the intention now is to make the building a memorial to the men who served in the Great War and to increase the cost from three to ten million dollars, the money to be raised by public subscription. The question as to the suitability of the building for a war memorial or as to changes in design required by the increase in cost have not been submitted to the Commission. Another announced project has been to provide space in the memorial for Government archives. This subject has not been submitted. It is known, however, that the papers of the War Department alone would require the entire building.

As respects the provision of the joint resolution providing that the erection of the building may begin as soon as the temporary war buildings have been removed from the site and \$500,000 has been paid into the treasury of the George Washington Memorial Association, the Commission

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 3, 1862. It is a very important document, as it contains the President's annual message to Congress.

2. The second part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 10, 1862. It contains information about the land and mineral resources of the United States.

3. The third part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 15, 1862. It contains information about the financial condition of the United States.

4. The fourth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 20, 1862. It contains information about the military forces of the United States.

5. The fifth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 25, 1862. It contains information about the naval forces of the United States.

6. The sixth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, dated February 1, 1862. It contains information about the land and mineral resources of the United States.

7. The seventh part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Department of the Treasury, dated February 5, 1862. It contains information about the financial condition of the United States.

8. The eighth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Department of the War, dated February 10, 1862. It contains information about the military forces of the United States.

9. The ninth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Department of the Navy, dated February 15, 1862. It contains information about the naval forces of the United States.

respectfully calls attention to two unfortunate and humiliating experiences. The first was in connection with the Washington Monument, begun by private subscription, permitted to stand in an unfinished and unsightly condition from 1859 to 1876, and finally taken over and completed by Congress in 1884. The second was in connection with the purchase of Mount Vernon, the project for which was before the people from 1855 until 1859, when the purchase was consummated through the heroic efforts of Anna Pamela Cunningham. In order to prevent an important and conspicuous portion of the Mall from being kept in an unsightly condition during the period required to raise by popular subscription the remaining nineteen-twentieths of the cost of the memorial, the Commission suggest that section two of the Joint Resolution be amended so as to provide that the erection of the building may begin so soon as the Secretary of War shall be satisfied that money will be available to pay the cost of said building constructed in accordance with plans and specifications approved by him.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

Hon. John W. Langley, Chairman,
Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

XHIBIT A.

September 22, 1921.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts direct me to reply to your letter of September 12 as follows:

The question at issue is one that can come before the Commission of Fine Arts only on submission by some Government authority. Desiring, however, to be helpful in any matter relating to the development of the city of Washington, the Commission do not hesitate to inform you of their action as already taken on projects involved in the water-front contention.

The President and Commissioners who laid out the city of Washington reserved for public uses the entire water front of the Potomac River and Eastern Branch together with the vacant space left adjacent thereto (as shown on the L'Enfant, Ellicott and Dermott maps) to form a street, to be called Water Street, for convenient access to such docks and wharves as might be constructed in the interests of commerce and navigation of the city, which street should form the southern boundary of the city. Such being the decision of the Supreme Court, Congress placed the custody of the vacant space in the control of the District Commissioners, who are now undertaking to regulate the use thereof in the interest of the public.

The plan of 1901 contemplates that Water Street, with its unusual width, should form a portion of the series of boulevards and parkways encircling the city. This development is not inconsistent with commercial uses of the water-front - such uses as are represented by the municipal fish market and the landings of river steamers, provided always that the property be maintained in an orderly condition. This Commission did oppose with vigor the erection on the water-front of a power-house. Such action was based on the fact that in its very nature a power-house would be a disturbing and dominating feature in a park area.

This Commission have noted with satisfaction that the Commissioners of the District of Columbia have entered upon the systematic development and improvement of Water Street in such manner as to make it a satisfactory connection between the Potomac Parks, the War College and the Anacostia Water Park. Also that the Commissioners are providing for commercial facilities along the Anacostia River.

A plan for the reconstruction of the wharves along the Washington Channel, involving ferries to East Potomac Park, has been approved by this Commission. Two other features might be considered: First, a short bridge at the head of the Washington Channel, making a physical connection between Water Street and East Potomac Park; and, second, a recreation pier for the use primarily of children.

The questions raised in your communication are answered above in so far as this Commission has taken action on projects submitted to it.

Very truly, yours,

(signed) C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Mr. J. Maury Dove, Jr.,
J. Maury Dove Company,
Washington, D. C.

XHIBIT B.

September 28, 1921.

Dear Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts to whom was submitted your letter of September 20, 1921, together with correspondence on the Skinner Medal, and a design for such medal, respectfully return the same disapproved.

The Commission find the design in lettering and other respects below the standards set by the United States Mint. The Commission recommend that a medallist be employed to design a suitable medal. The amount of money now available is insufficient to design a satisfactory medal.

The Commission would be pleased to take up the matter with the person in charge of the Skinner prize to ascertain whether it would be possible to obtain a suitable design.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Major General P. C. Harris,
The Adjutant General, United States Army,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

XHIBIT C.

September 28, 1921.

Dear Mrs. Peary:

The Commission of Fine Arts would suggest that the face of the Peary Monument bear this inscription:

Inscription on the front face:

Robert Edwin Peary
1856 - 1920
Josephine Diebitsch Peary
1863 - ----

Inscription on the right side:

Discoverer of
The North Pole
April 6, 1909

Inscription on the left side:

Rear Admiral
United States Navy
Writer, Scientist
Navigator, Explorer

Inscription on the rear face:

Inveniam viam aut faciam

Will you please inform me if the arrangement of the inscription as proposed meets with your approval?

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Mrs. Robert E. Peary,
South Harpswell,
Maine.

EXHIBIT D.

September 30, 1921.

Sir:

By your direction the authorities of Howard University presented to the Commission of Fine Arts on September 22 plans for the Home Economics and Dining Hall Building to be erected on the grounds of Howard University. The plans and location were approved by the Commission. In this connection it may be stated that the Commission has made several inspections of the grounds of Howard University, both those now occupied and those to be occupied. The time now seems propitious for a general plan for the development of Howard University which is going to occupy a large and important area in the District of Columbia, and the proper development of which Institution can add very greatly to the attractiveness of the city. This fact can be readily seen when one considers that the University grounds join the McMillan Park, which in turn joins the Soldiers Home grounds. Howard University in its ultimate development will include the Colored Normal School and the Freedman's Hospital, and all these elements should be treated in connection one with the other. The authorities of the University with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts are quite competent to make such a plan.

Very respectfully, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

EXHIBIT E.

September 28, 1921.

Dear Colonel Penrose:

Replying to your letter of September 19 suggesting memorials for the unknown dead in the Arlington Memorial Amphitheater, I would say that after discussion of your communication the Commission thought that it would be quite invidious to recommend to Congress the placing of tablets in the Amphitheater to persons simply because their bodies were not buried at Arlington. This would seem to dignify these persons beyond others who have at least equal claims to special commemoration. It is suggested that instead of tablets in the Amphitheater a section of the cemetery be set aside and that a memorial be provided so that the names of persons entitled to burial at Arlington whose bodies have been buried at sea, or otherwise have been lost, can be inscribed thereon; or it might be desirable to have individual headstones with the fact that the body was buried at sea (or otherwise lost) noted thereon.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore

Chairman.

Colonel George H. Penrose,
Chief,
Graves Registration Service,
War Department,
Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT F.

September 28, 1921.

Dear Senator Brandegee:

The Commission of Fine Arts inspected the portrait of Andrew Jackson in the rooms of the Senate Committee on the Library September 22, 1921, and respectfully report:

That neither as a likeness nor as a painting is it worthy of a place on the walls of the Capitol. The Commission also gave consideration to the photographs of the painting by Earl sent by Mr. Andrew Jackson, of Los Angeles, California. The Commission went over the reproductions of portraits of Andrew Jackson in the Library of Congress, and also visited the Senate Corridor to examine the portraits hanging on those walls. Further the Commission visited the Corcoran Gallery of Art to examine the full length picture of Andrew Jackson by Sully, a very fine sample of his work. Sully ranks among the first of the successful American portrait painters, and his portraits of Jackson are the best that were painted of that statesman. There are in the Ehrich Galleries in New York two portraits, either one of which is better than any other portrait of Jackson by an artist other than Sully. Sully's portrait of Jefferson is one of the best portraits in the Senate Corridor, and it seems to the Commission that only the best available pictures should find a place in the Capitol. Certainly an inferior picture should not be selected when a superior picture is available.

Knowing that the Toledo Museum of Art has a portrait of Jackson by Sully about the size required for the Senate Corridor an inquiry was made of the Director of that Museum as to the price paid. The Director, Mr. George W. Stevens, writes under date of September 24, 1921 that "the Sully canvas cost the Museum \$3,000, and it is an unusually fine example of Sully's work. I think the price was very reasonable considering the quality".

If, with this information, it is the desire of the Committee on the Library to secure a Sully portrait the two now in New York can be sent to the Committee for inspection. Mr. Mowbray, the painter member of the Commission examined the two portraits at the Ehrich Galleries and he reports as follows:

"I was especially pleased with the one of which you have the photograph. It is a strong, forceful bust portrait painted in 1845, and impressed me more than the photograph did. It represents Jackson at the point of leaving the presidency. The other one is of an earlier period. You will find a photograph of it in the catalog. In this Jackson is in uniform, and as a portrait it is much less the typical Jackson that the other is.

"I do not think we would make a mistake in recommending the first in the case of any disposition to purchase, both as a work of art and an excellent portrait. It is, moreover, similar in size as the other portraits already

in place.

"Should it be desired, both these portraits can be sent to Washington at any time for inspection."

Very sincerely, yours,

(signed) Charles Moore
Chairman.

Hon. Frank B. Brandegee,

United States Senate.

EXHIBIT G.

October 5, 1921.

My dear Mr. Connor:

After having made an inspection of your work on the monument to the Nuns of the Battlefield the members of the Commission of Fine Arts felt that you have made progress. They thought that the monument with fine architecture and sculpture would be adequate. The architecture is as important as the sculpture. They thought that you had helped the panel of the Nuns, and that you may with proper application get something good from the idea. The figures on the sides were not in good proportions. When you were spoken to about this you did not answer directly, but said they were merely roughed in, and that you would fix the matter in the full-size. The Commission is of the opinion that you should not make a full-size model until you have entirely finished the working model. The Commission requires that you finish your working model absolutely, architecture and sculpture, so that they can know what they are to look at and what you can do. It will be unnecessary for the Commission again to see what you have not done. When you have the working model absolutely finished so that the enlargement may be expected to look like the model the Commission will be pleased to make further inspection.

Sincerely, yours,

(signed) C. O. Sherrill,

Lieut. Col., Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.Jerome Connor, Esq.,
322 North Carolina Avenue, S.E.,
Washington, D. C.

XHIBIT H

September 22, 1921.

Dear Colonel Kutz:

The Commission of Fine Arts during their meeting today heard that you were closing your term of office as Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia. The Commission desire to express to you their appreciation of your sympathetic cooperation in measures in which the District Commissioners and the Commission of Fine Arts were concerned.

The Commission desire especially to express their sense of the benefit to the good order and attractiveness of Washington certain to result from the Zoning Law, the passage of which you were instrumental in securing and the working out of which your firmness, tact and consideration has made comparatively easy. The Commission regard the Zoning Act as one of the milestones in the history of the development of the National Capital.

The members of the Commission of Fine Arts wish you success and satisfaction in your new work.

Very sincerely, yours,

(signed) C. O. Sherrill
Lieut. Colonel, Corps of Engineers,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Colonel C. W. Kutz,
Engineer Commissioner of the
District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

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